BOROUGH OF BECCLES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1969

Municipal Offices,
Blyburgate,
BECCLES,
Suffolk.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	Arthur C. Gee. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.	E.H.Cranmer, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
MEAT INSPECTORS (Part Time)	P.F. Roe, M.R.C.V.S.
	W.T. James, B.V.M.S., M.R.C.V.S.
	I. Jackson, B. Vet. Med., M.R.C.V.S.

Municipal Offices,
Blyburgate,
BECCLES,
Suffolk.

Tel. No. Beccles 3113.

BOROUGH OF BECCLES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1969

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Beccles Borough Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough during 1969.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid 1969 population is 8,150. This is the highest figure in the history of the Borough, and the first time it has exceeded 8,000. It is a continuation of the trend of the last ten years which has shown a consistant rise. The natural increase (excess of births over deaths) was 51, and the presumption is that the remainder were newcomers to the Borough attracted by its industry, or its desirability as a place for retirement.

It is interesting to note that the "causes of death" show an absence of death due to infective and parasitic disease, but that cancer and "stress" diseases continue to be a major cause of death. In this respect the causes of death follow the national pattern.

There were no maternal deaths and no still births during the year, but it is sad to see that three infants died under the age of one year. With such a small population, this gives the Borough an unjustifiably unfavourable infant mortality rate. In each case death was due to congential defects. Otherwise, the vital statistics were uniformly satisfactory, with deaths the lowest for many years, and births the highest. The Borough had little infectious disease during the year.

The number of houses in the Borough continues its steady rise, and we have now reached the point where the average occupation per house is only 2.7 persons - a far cry indeed from the not so distant past, when overcrowding was rife and when families of eight, nine and ten persons living in a house were common. The worst slum houses in the Borough have been dealt with, and it is of interest that fifty-five sound but outmoded houses were improved with the aid of a Grant.

The construction of the Council's first grouped dwellings for the elderly continued throughout the year, and it is hoped they will be occupied during 1970.

The former sewage disposal system of the Borough, which has been a source of concern for a number of years, was closed down with the opening of the new sewage disposal system at Worlingham. This must surely be one of the most important steps forward in the Public Health improvements to the district which has taken place for a very long time.

May I conclude this report by expressing my thanks for the interest you have shown in our work during the year, and to Mr. Cranmer for his help and co-operation with my duties to your Borough.

Your obedient servant,

Arthur C. Gee.
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,107
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1969)	8,150
Number of inhabited houses	2,992
Rateable Value (December 1969)	£278,447
Product of Penny Rate (To December, 1969)	£ 1,140

	Beccles	England and Wales
LIVE BIRTHS		
Number.....	128	-
Rate per 1,000 population	15.7	16.3
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS		
Per cent of total live births	3.8	
STILL BIRTHS		
Number	-	
Rate per 1,000 of total live and still births	-	13.0
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)	3	-
INFANT MORTALITY RATES		
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	23	18
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 ligitimate live births	24	17
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	--	25
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	23	12
EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE(deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births).....	23	10
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	23	23
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	-	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-	

VITAL STATISTICS	Male	Female	TOTAL
LIVE BIRTHS			
Total	72	56	128
Legitimate	70	53	123
Illegitimate	2	3	5
STILL BIRTHS			
Total	-	-	-
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE			
Total	3	-	3
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE			
Total	3	-	3
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE			
Total	3	-	3
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
DEATHS - ALL AGES	40	37	77

RATES	Beccles	England & Wales
Adjusted Birth Rate	17.0	16.3
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	9.4	11.9
Adjusted Death Rate	8.4	11.9

Comparability Factor (Births) 1.08

Comparability Factor (Deaths) .89

CAUSES OF DEATH

		Male	Female	TOTA
1	Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	1	4
2	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-	1
3	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2	4
4	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	4	5
5	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	-	3
6	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	2	2
7	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	-	2
8	Leukaemia	1	2	3
9	Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	3	5
10	Anaemias	2	-	2
11	Other diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	-	1
12	Ischaemic Heart Disease	9	7	16
13	Other forms of Heart Disease	4	5	9
14	Cerebrovascular Disease	-	8	8
15	Other diseases of Circulatory System	1	-	1
16	Pneumonia	2	1	3
17	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
18	Peptic Ulcer	-	1	1
19	Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	1	-	1
20	Other diseases of Digestive System	1	-	1
21	Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	-	2
22	All other external causes	1	1	2
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	40	37	77

AGE AT DEATH

Under 4 Weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in Years 1	5 -	15 -	25 -	35-	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 & over	TOT
3	-	1	1	1	-	-	5	16	17	33	77

DEATHS FROM CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS DURING THE YEARS 1955-1969

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION
1955	1	1	2	0.28
1956	1	-	1	0.13
1957	2	1	3	0.43
1958	-	-	-	Nil
1959	4	-	4	0.57
1960	2	1	3	0.43
1961	3	-	3	o.40
1962	5	-	5	0.68
1963	2	-	2	0.27
1964	4	-	4	0.53
1965	3	1	4	0.52
1966	3	-	3	0.38
1967	2	1	3	0.38
1968	3	2	5	0.63
1969	3	-	3	0.36
TOTAL	38	7	45	

ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATE: COMPARABILITY FACTOR

Local birth rates are expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar-General and comprise persons of all ages, including those who have no influence on the birth rate. These latter do, however, effect the birth rate in that a high proportion of them in a population tends to lower, and a small proportion tends to raise the true rate. The size of this proportion will vary in different areas and, therefore, the elimination or standardization of such a factor will give a truer comparison between areas.

The Registrar-General issues a comparability factor on these lines. Multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by the comparability factor gives the adjusted birth rate and can be compared with the crude rate for England and Wales.

The comparability factor for deaths is obtained in a similar way to the above. The factors for certain areas, where rapid increase or reduction in the population affects its comparison by sex and age groups are also adjusted on that account. Death rate area comparability factors are adjusted to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. Birth rate area comparability factors are also adjusted to take account of the presence of sterile populations in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

TABLE SHOWING THE MORE IMPORTANT CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES.

CAUSE OF DEATH	NO. OF DEATHS		PERCENTAGE	
	1968	1969	1968	1969
Diseases of circulatory system.	40	34	47.3	44.1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	1	8.4	1.3
Malignant Diseases	24	25	17.8	32.4
Pneumonia & Bronchitis	12	6	11.0	7.7
Influenza	1	-	1.0	-
All other causes	10	11	14.5	14.5
TOTAL	95	77	100.	100.

	YEAR																
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Population	7,050	7,130	7,060	7,000	6,980	6,960	6,960	7,040	7,330	7,400	7,440	7,520	7,640	7,730	7,850	7,990	8,150
No. of inhabited houses	2,520	2,550	2,580	2,590	2,603	2,606	2,641	2,637	2,690	2,739	2,748	2,805	2,820	2,820	2,910	2,948	2,992
Number of Live Births	99	95	75	87	96	100	99	88	115	113	104	126	107	113	107	104	128
Birth Rate (crude)	14.2	13.5	10.5	10.5	12.3	13.7	14.3	14. 2	12.5	13.6	15.3	16.7	14.0	14.6	13.6	13.0	15.7
Number of Still Births	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	1	3	3	3	4	0	1	1	0
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate	0	10.5	26.7	34.5	20.8	0	30.3	22.7	17.4	17.7	19.2	31.0	9.3	0	0	19	23
(Number of Deaths)	0	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(0)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(4)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(2)	(3)
Number of Deaths (all ages)	82	103	107	112	81	95	97	81	97	104	125	90	90	97	100	95	77
Death Rate (crude)	11.7	14.6	15.0	15.8	11.6	13.6	13.9	11.5	13.2	14.0	16.8	11.9	11.8	12.5	12.6	11.9	9.4

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO MONTH OF OCCURENCE

	MEASLES	SCARLET FEVER	SONNE DYSENTERY	PULMONERY TUBERCULOSIS	SALMONELLOSIS
January					
February	3				
March		2			
April					
May			1	1	
June					
July					
August					1
September					
October					
November					
December					
TOTAL	3	2	1	1	1

NUMBER OF ALL CONFIRMED CASES OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1969 ACCORDING TO AGE & SEX.

AGE	MEASLES			SCARLET FEVER			SONNE DYSENTERY			PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS			SALMONELLOSIS		
	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL
Under 1															
1 -							1		1						
2 -													1		1
3 -															
4 -		1	1												
5 - 9	1		1	1	1	2									
10 - 14	1		1												
15 - 24															
25 - 44															
44 - 64										1		1			
65 and over															
Age unknown															
TOTAL	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS	MALES		FEMALES		
	Pulmonary	Non - Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	TOTAL
No. of cases on the Register at 31st.December 1968.	18	2	2	7	29
No. of cases added during the year	1	1	-	-	2
No. of cases removed during the year	4	-	1	2	7
No. of cases on the Register at 31st. December 1969	15	3	1	5	24

CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER		CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER	
New Notifications	1	Recovered	1
Inward Transfers	1	Died	4
		Removed to other areas	2
TOTAL	2	TOTAL	7

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1969

Mr. Chairman, Your Worship, Gentlemen,

I present my Twenty-first Annual report since my appointment as the Council's Public Health Inspector in May 1949.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Sewerage has been progressively extended in the Borough in recent years until there remain only eight properties which are not provided with water-borne drainage. They are all in isolated positions where distances from the nearest sewer, technical difficulties or economics make connection impracticable at present.

The year 1969 marked one of the biggest public health advances in the Borough for many years, with the opening on 18th. October of the new sewage disposal system at Worlingham. The former works, which were basically a series of open cesspools, had been a source of concern for many years. It must be a great satisfaction to the Council that it has anticipated the current concern about the pollution of environment, and that Beccles has moved from a very lowly position in the "pollution league" in respect of sewage disposal to a premier one.

A study of the history of sewage disposal in the Borough is instructive as a microcosm of Public Health advancement in the Country as a whole in the last 100 years or so.

The "East Suffolk Gazette" of 15th. April 1873 contains a most interesting account of a Government Enquiry into an application by the Council to borrow £6,000 for the purpose of building a new sewage disposal system. The application was bitterly opposed as a quite unnecessary expenditure, the virtues of the so-called "dry" system of disposal were extolled and, inevitably, it was said that"the time is not opportune".

Sewage disposal in the Borough is mentioned in what is without doubt the best known treatise on Public Health ever written - Edwin Chadwick's "Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Population of Great Britain" published in 1842. This was the first time that the connection between environment and health had been appreciated (albeit imperfectly), and Chadwick is universally regarded as the "father" of the Public Health Service which we know today.

It contains an extract from aletter from Mr. Crowfoot, a Surgeon of Beccles to a Mr. Twisleton, in which he says:-

"About 30 years since, Beccles began a system of drainage which has continued to improve, till at the present every part of the town is well drained, and I am not aware of a single open drain in the place".

He took a"control" town of a similar size which:-

".... with equally convenient opportunities for drainage in that respect, has two large reservoirs of filth in the Town itself, and some of its principal drains are open ones."

Mr. Crowfoot then contrasted the death rates in the two towns, and showed that whilst there had been an improvement in Beccles in parallel with the provision of proper drainage, the position in the "control" town had progressively worsened.

Beccles can take pride in the fact that the forebear of a family honoured in the Borough to this day contributed to this monumental document, and that the Borough was set up as an example, in it.

It is indicative of the progress made since that the sewage disposal works which was, no doubt, the "last word" when it was built, and that the sewerage system (presumably direct into the river) which was commended in a document known throughout the world, should have become so outmoded by progress in Public Health as to require replacement at a very heavy cost.

Since this is such an important step, it is considered justifiable to quote verbatim, for record purposes, from a description of the works by the Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. A.H.S. Waters and Partners:-

" The construction of the Works to be opened by Mr. W. H. Copeman, T.D., on Saturday, 18th. October, 1969, was commenced during May, 1967.

The existing sewerage system of the town discharges to an old pumping station in Common Lane, sewage being pumped to a series of primitive lagoons which constitute the only means of treatment before the effluent finds its way into the dykes which traverse the Beccles Marshes.

Selection of a site for new disposal works within the Borough above flood level and clear of the main areas of population proved to be impossible and ultimately it was decided to purchase a site at Worlingham, some $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles clear of the main town and in the adjoining Wainford Rural District.

Since the old pumping station was very small and must be kept in running order until new pumping plant could be commissioned, a new Pumping Station was constructed on adjacent land, the two main outfall sewers being diverted thereto at the appropriate time.

From the new pumping station sewage is now pumped through an 18-inch diameter rising main laid across the Beccles Common, through the marsh area behind Worlingham Hall and through woodland to the new disposal works.

The pumping equipment is provided in triplicate, any two of the pumps (the third being a stand-by) operating together delivering some 2,000 gallons per minute. Space has been provided for the future installation of a fourth pump as required. The pumps are automatically controlled by the levels in the sewage pump wells.

At the disposal works the pumped flows are discharged to balancing tanks designed to even out, by means of constant rate floating arm draw-offs, the rate of flow to the treatment units, the first of which is a mechanically raked screen for the removal of rags, etc. which, after disintegration in a macerating pump, are returned to the general flow of sewage. A hand raked screen on a by-pass channel has also been provided as a maintenance, or emergency measure.

Effluent from the screening chamber is then passed through duplicate detritus channels of the constant velocity type, grit deposited in these channels being removed at intervals for separate disposal.

On leaving these channels the flow reaches a storm overflow chamber controlled by a venturi flume so that flows in excess of three times the dry weather flow are passed over a side weir to the stormwater tanks. These tanks, four in number, and with a capacity of 144,000 gallons, are arranged to fill in sequence, all tanks being filled before overflow to the final effluent pipe can take place. As soon as possible after the cessation

of rainfall the contents of the upper part of the tanks are pumped to the sedimentation tanks (referred to later) for treatment through the works, the contents of the lower part of the tanks being treated as sludge, as later described.

Flows passing the venturi flume previously referred to are measured by that flume and then pass, via a 15-inch diameter pipe, to a distribution chamber for discharge to any of the four sedimentation tanks of the horizontal flow type and having a total capacity of 284,000 gallons. These tanks are fitted with a single sludge scraping machine capable of being transferred from tank to tank as required.

Settled effluent passing over the outlet weirs of the sedimentation tanks is collected at a second distribution chamber for distribution over the surface of four percolating filters by revolving sprinklers, which are mechanically driven by water turbines. The rate of rotation is variable. Each of the filters is 97 feet in diameter and the total content of granite medium is 6,360 cubic yards.

The effluent from the filters is passed to a third distribution chamber for division to any of three humus tanks for final settlement. These tanks are of the circular radial flow type with a total capacity of 147,000 gallons and fitted with rotating bridge type scrapers for the mechanical collection of sludge. Final effluent from these tanks is discharged by a 15-inch diameter pipe to an adjoining chamber in which it joins the effluent pipe from the stormwater tanks. After passing through a metering chamber this effluent is discharged to the nearby dyke system, from which, together with land drainage, it is pumped to the River Waveney by arrangement with the Lower Waveney Internal Drainage Board.

In the chamber collecting drains from individual humus tanks, arrangements have been made for the partial diversion of final effluent to one of the wells of Pumping Station No. 2 and for re-circulation by pumping to the distribution chamber feeding the filters. Final effluent can also be drawn from the pump well and returned to the sludge filter house for washwater purposes.

Sludge from the sedimentation and stormwater tanks, after collection in the pump well of pumping Station No.1. is pumped to either of two sludge storage tanks where surplus water can be removed. After treatment and mixing with chemicals the sludge is passed over a vacuum filter for the mechanical removal of surplus water and then discharged to an adjoing storage area before final disposal to land. Filtrate is collected and pumped to the inlet of the sedimentation tanks for re-treatment. Sludge from the humus tanks may either be pumped to the sludge storage tanks or to the sedimentation tanks for re-settlement with the primary sludge.

A small area of sludge beds has been provided for emergency use in dealing with the sludge in the event of a prolonged breakdown of the filtration plant.

The disposal works have been designed in the first instance for a population of 9,000 persons, the equivelant daily dry weather flow of sewage and trade wastes being some 720,000 gallons per day. Provision has been made in the design for the works to be extended easily to accommodate provision for a total population of 10,000 persons or a dry weather flow of 890,000 gallons per day.

Contract No. 5, which comprised the construction of the sewage disposal works, was executed by Vibrated Concrete Construction Company Limited, the contract price being approximately £268,000.

Contract No.6, comprising the construction of the new main pumping station and rising main, was executed by Kier Limited, the contract price being approximately £86,000."

WATER SUPPLY

Piped water supplies are provided to all except eight dwellings in the Borough. These are all in isolated positions where, at present, it would be uneconomic to extend water mains.

Water is supplied by East Anglian Water Company from their works at Barsham. Mr. K. B. Clarke, their Chief Engineeer, has kindly supplied the following information, in the form required by the Ministry of Health and Social Security:-

(1) The Water supply to the Borough of Beccles is obtained from boreholes sunk into the chalk feeding the treatment works at Barsham. The treated water is then pumped to the reservoir and tower at South Road, Beccles.

(2) The supply has been satisfactory in both quantity and quality but occasionally iron deposits in the mains have been disturbed causing discolouration of the water in supply. A systematic flushing programme has been undertaken which should minimise this problem in the future.

(3) 3,079 properties are fed directly from the public water mains and a further 14 by means of standpipes.

(4) The Bacteriological purity of the water has been maintained throughout the year, regular monthly samples being taken from different points in the distribution system. Copies of typical analyses are attached.

(5) The fluoride content of the water varies slightly but is normally 0.2 p.p.m.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

Thresh House,
Verulam Street,
Grey's Inn Road,
LONDON. W.C.1.

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE OF WATER received 18. 6. 69. Our Ref. Y/R/474

from EAST ANGLIAN WATER COMPANY

Labelled 7 CLERK'S PIECE, BECCLES, kitchen tap, distribution tap.Date 18.6.69. 10.25am

Taken by C. PERRETT. Witness MRS. SUCKLING. Signed. C. PERRETT.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN MILLIGRAMS PER LITRE (ppm)

Appearance	Clear and bright		
		Turbidity (A.P.H.A. units)	Nil
Colour (Hazen)	3	Odour	Nil
pH	7.4	Free Carbon Dioxide	19
Electric Conductivity .. Reciprocal Megohms per cm.	710	Dissolved Solids dried at 180oC	500
Chlorine present as Chloride	56	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	220
Hardness: Total	365	Carbonate 220	Non-carbonate 145
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.2	Nitrite Nitrogen : less than :	0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen*	0.00	Oxygen absorbed	0.20
Albuminoid Nitrogen*	0.02	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals	Iron, zinc, copper, lead: Absent.		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20-22°
Number of colonies developing on Agar,	..0 per ml	..0 per ml	0 per ml

	Present in	Absent from	Most probable num
Presumptive Coliform reaction	... ml.	100 ml	... per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	... ml	100 ml	... per 100 ml
Cl. welchii reaction	... ml	100 ml	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction slightly on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not considered excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses.

1st, July, 1969. Roy Hoather.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Borough Engineer (S.C. Bromley Esq., M.I.M.E., M.I.H.E.) is responsible to the Council for the collection and disposal of refuse. Collection is weekly, and more frequently from trade premises by arrangement.

Disposal is controlled tipping on the Council's Marsh Estate, and in the not-too-distant future, the principal amenity and holiday area of the Borough should be considerably enlarged and improved as a result.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

It cannot be said that smoke pollution of the atmosphere is a grave Public Health problem in the Borough. There are no excessively smoke producing industries, and the Town is surrounded by miles of open Norfolk and Suffolk countryside.

The open domestic fire is without doubt the chief culprit, but advancements in space heating techniques, notably the now common provision of central heating in new dwellings, gives grounds for hope that this is a lessening problem.

BATHING POOL

The Council's Bathing Pool has been in use since 1959. The Ministry of Health and Social Security request that a description of such Pools should be included in the Report on the Health of the Borough.

The present Pool is situated in Puddingmoor by the River Waveney, near the centre of the Town, measures 100 ft. by 50 ft. and is 3ft. deep at the shallow end. There is a 12 ft. diving pit at the deep end. It is constructed of re-inforced concrete, finished in blue enamel, with a perimeter scum channel. There is a footbath at the entrance to the Pool, and spectators are separated from the surround by a guard rail. Electricity and mains water supply are available.

The Pool is filled at the beginning of the season by mains water supply. Treatment is by filtration, aeration cascade and break-point chlorination, with chemical dosage of soda and alumina to control pH. The water is changed every seven hours at a rate of 524 gallons per minute. 'Topping up' is from the mains water supply.

A paddling pool for young children is provided to relieve congestion at the shallow end.

New sanitary accommodation and washing facilities have now been provided. They are in keeping with the high standard of the other facilities provided, with the possible exception of the changing accommodation - the only remaining legacy of the former Pool.

There has been some preliminary discussion about the possibility of covering and heating the Pool, so that it could be used for more than the few brief weeks of the average British summer.

HOUSING

No new Council houses were built during the year 1969. Private enterprise provided twenty-six houses and four flats.

Of the 2,978 dwellings in the Borough, the Council own 783 - about one quarter.

Such has been the progress in building, both Municipal and private, in recent years, that there are indications that there is no longer a shortage

of houses for the better-off would be owner-occupier. This is evidenced by the number of new houses for sale, and the progressive fall in the average occupation per house - now about 2.7 persons.

The real need would appear to be housing for those on a lower income, whose need is greatest but who, through no fault of their own, can afford neither the high mortgage repayments necessary to buy a house, nor an unsupported economic rent for a new Council House at today's prices.

There would appear to be social dangers inherent in this situation. If a family undertake rent or mortgage payments which are quite unrealistic in relation to their income, three possible consequences might arise.

They may cut down their expenditure on food, heating or clothing or other things which are quite as important to health as good housing.

They may be in a state of perpetual anxiety about debts, and few things can be more inimical to peace of mind or health.

The other possibility is that the mother of a growing family will take on full or part time work out of sheer economic necessity.

It is difficult to assess the effect of these things on health, on morale, on the quality of family life, and on the rising generation, but it is perhaps true to say that a home with all "mod.cons." is not the be all and end all of successful family life.

These reflections, and a concern about the conditions under which many elderly people in the Borough are living have prompted the Council to devote the greater part of its housing effort during 1969 on the provision of grouped dwellings for the elderly in St. Benedict's Road. Thirty six centrally heated flats are under construction, with warden's flat, common room, television room and furnished bedroom for the use of occasional visitors.

It is the Council's hope that the elderly tenants of several under-occupied houses, both private and Council will move into them. Thus not only will their own living standards be improved, but the houses they at present occupy will be released for family use, perhaps after improvement with the aid of a Grant, at a cost within the reach of those whose need is greatest.

A further move towards improving housing accommodation has been the allocation of Improvement Grants with as little restriction as possible. Five standard grants and 45 discretionary grants were made during the year, and this seems to have become a fairly regular pattern.

If the Council can continue to secure the improvement of sound but outmoded houses at the rate of about one per week, this must in time amount to a significant raising of housing standards where it is most needed.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no such premises in the Borough.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960.

The Council received widespread complaints during the year about the noise from a Plastic Container Manufacturing Factory.

Acoustic Consultants were called in, who expressed the opinion that there was a contravention of the Noise Abatement Act 1960, and made recommendations for its abatement.

These recommendations were accepted in their entirety by the firm concerned, and the necessary remedial work was put in hand.

Work was in progress at the end of the year, which will, it is hoped, eefectively abate the alleged nuisance.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The Council employs one full time Rodent Operator, who additionally deals with the multiplicity of matters which continually arise in every Public Health Department, such as the disinfection and disinfestation of premises, the unblocking of drains and investigation of drainage defects, the control of pigeons, rabbits, insect pests etc.

The sewers of the Borough were thoroughly tested during the year for the presence of rats, and appropriate action taken where necessary, and prompt attention was given to complaints of infestation by rats, mice or other pests.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two slaughterhouses in the Borough.

The first is a large Abattoir, owned by Messrs. Swift and Co.Ltd. products of which are distributed throughout the Country and abroad.

The second is a small local slaughterhouse, supplying four butchers' shops in Beccles and the immediate vicinity.

MEAT INSPECTION

The great majority of meat inspection in the Borough at Messrs. Swift's Abattoir is carried out by Messrs. Roe and James, a local Veterinary practise who are employed part time by the Council solely for this work.

Meat Inspection at the other slaughterhouse is the responsibility of the Public Health Inspector.

Details of inspections and condemnations during the year 1969 in the form required by the Ministry of Health and Social Security are set out, but there are two important reservations in respect of condemnations for tuberculosis.

Messrs. Swift's Slaughterhouse is approved for the reception of animals tested ante mortem for tuberculoses and re-acting positively. The five instances in which localised Tuberculosis was found in bovines were all in animals suspected to be suffering from the disease, and slaughtered on that account.

The figure of 133 instances of localised Tuberculosis in pigs is probably grossly over-stated. It was invariably found in the Sub maxillary lymph node where the condition is indistinguishable from Coryne-bacterium equi except after extensive laboratory test, which, on account of the delay involved, it is not practicable to carry out during routine meat inspection. Under these circumstances, the policy must be "safety first" and the condition presumed to be tuberculosis. It is therefore likely that the incidence of localised tuberculosis in pigs is grossly over-stated.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
No. Killed	4,987	31	353	50,778	56,149
No. Inspected	4,987	31	353	50,778	56,149

All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole Carcases Condemned	22	3	2	373
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,441	5	3	2,341
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysterci	29.3%	22.2%	1.4%	4.8%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	1	-	133
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	.008%	3.2%	-	.26%
Cysticercosis Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration.	4	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-

OTHER UNSOUND FOOD

About 250 items of unsound food were voluntarily surrendered by food handling firms in the Borough, the appropriate certificates issued and the food properly disposed of.

OTHER FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

The great majority of other food handling premises were visited during the year, and informal action was successful in securing the rectification of minor infringments of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Legal proceedings were instituted in one instance under the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966 and the defendant was fined on three charges.

POULTRY PROCESSING PLANTS.

There are no such plants in the Borough.

DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND FOOD

Diseased meat and other unsound food is disposed of in a by-product plant in Common Lane North, owned by Messrs. Swift and Company. It is exposed to such high temperatures as to render it sterile, and is converted into commercially valuable products, such as fertilizer and animal feedstuffs.

DAIRIES

There are three dairies in the Borough.

Two are large pasteurising and bottling plants serving the Borough and a large surrounding area. The primary responsibility in respect of such premises rests on the Food and Drugs Authority - the East Suffolk County Council - and co-operation with their officials could not be more complete or cordial.

The third is a producer-retailer of designated milk. The Milk and Dairies Regulations place the responsibility for the control of these premises on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, inspections being made by their officials during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following is an extract from the report for the year 1969 made to the Department of Employment and Productivity:-

	Total Number of Registered Premises at end of Year	Number of Registered Premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year.
Offices	25	19
Retail Shops	81	75
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	6	4
Catering Premises	6	4
Fuel Storage Depots	2	2
TOTALS	120	104

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED

Offices	116
Retail Shops	370
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses.	21
Catering Establishments	45
Fuel Storage Depots	9

Factories Act 1937

The following details of work carried out under this Act are in the form required by the Ministry of Health and Social Security.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	48	16	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding out-workers' premises.)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	49	17	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

(1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars	Number of cases win which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act.

There were three outworkers in the Borough, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

There were no cases of default in sending lists to the Council, and no instances of work in unwholesome premises.

May, 1970.

E. H. CRANMER.
Public Health Inspector.